

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LIBREV 00638 151053Z

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----116910 151059Z /16

O P 151018Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 727
INFO USMISSION USUN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIBREVILLE 0638

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV, UNSC, SO, ET

SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL ACTION ON HORN

REF: A) STATE 65221, B) LIBREVILLE 0636

1. WHILE I SHALL OF COURSE DEFER TO DEPARTMENT WISHES,
I SUGGEST WE HOLD FIRE ON ANY FURTHER APPROACH PER
REFTEL (A) TO BONGO FOR TIME BEING IN LIGHT MY CONVER-
SATION WITH HIM REPORTED REFTEL (B).

2. BONGO IS CLEARLY EXPECTINGNIGERIANS TO CARRY
BALL FOR OAU, BUT JUST AS CLEARLY INDICATED HIS WILL-
INGNESS TO AGREE TO REFERRING MATTER TO SECURITY COUNCIL
IF NIGERIANS AND/OR OAU STUMBLED. HE IS CERTAINLY
COGNIZANT OF DANGER OF REPRISALS, OF NEED FOR CEASE-FIRE
AND NEED TO ENFORCE RESPECT FOR TERRITORIAL INTE-
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GRITY. HE SEES MERIT IN OBSERVER PROPOSAL AND
SUPPORTS CONCEPT OF UN-LED HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE.
WHILE IT WAS NOT PERFECTLY CLEAR HOW MUCH OF THIS WAS
CONVEYED TOLEADEROF NIGERIA DELEGATION HERE FOR
RENOVATION DAY, WE CAN MAKE AN EDUCATED GUESS HIS
EXPECTATION THAT NIGERIANS MOVE ALONG AND AT LEAST
SOME OF HIS CONCERNs WERE IN FACT PASSED ON.

3. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, IT SEEMS TO BE PREFERABLE
HOLD OFF ON BONGO UNTIL DEVELOPMENTS IN LAGOS BECOME
CLEARER, THEN BE PREPARED TO GO BACK TO HIM SHOULD
THIS BE DEEMED USEFUL, I.E., IF NIGERIANS SEEM TO BE
DRAGGING THEIR FEET, OR IF MEETING IS LIKELY BE
LONG DELAYED BECAUSE OF ETHIOPIANS. HIS SENSI-
TIVITY TO DESIRABILITY OF OAU ACTING FIRST MAY VERY
WELL THEN BE TEMPERED AND HE COULD THEN PROVE USEFUL IN
SUSTAINING MOMENTUM WE DESIRE.TIENKEN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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